

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Screen (10) for a user interface of a
television schedule system and process consists of an
array (24) of irregular cells (26), which vary in length,
5 corresponding to different television program lengths
of one half hour to one-and-one half hours or more. The
array is arranged as three columns (28) of one-half hour
in duration, and twelve rows (30) of program listings.
10 Some of the program listings overlap two or more of the
10 columns (28) because of their length. Because of the
widely varying length of the cells (26), if a
conventional cursor used to select a cell location were
to simply step from one cell to another, the result would
15 be abrupt changes in the screen (10) as the cursor moved
15 from a cell (26) of several hours length to an adjacent
cell in the same row. An effective way of taming the
motion is to assume that behind every array (24) is an
underlying array of regular cells. By restricting cursor
movements to the regular cells, abrupt screen changes
20 will be avoided. With the cursor (32), the entire cell
(26) is 3-D highlighted, using a conventional offset
shadow (34). The offset shadow (34) is a black bar that
underlines the entire cell and wraps around the right
edge of the cell. To tag the underlying position--which
25 defines where the cursor (32) is and thus, where it will
25 move next--portions (36) of the black bar outside the
current underlying position are segmented, while the
current position is painted solid.